



Light Years from Here

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LIGHT YEARS FROM HERE TULCA 2016



622, Hijri: Albaset Dhanoon

Light Years from Here by artist Aisling O' Beirn is a project about looking at stars, telling stories about stars and thinking about the connection between time and stars. Cultures across the world have used the stars to tell the time, plan land use, navigation and speculate about the future. As all of the stars in the night sky are at different distances from the earth light takes different amounts of time to reach us. To look at the night sky is to look back in time to different pasts simultaneously. Depending on where we look we can see light ranging from the start of the Muslim Hijri calendar (622) to the launch of Sputnik (1957).

The project 'Light Years from Here' involves a range of Galway residents from different ethnic / cultural backgrounds who contributed dates and related anecdotes that have political / historical or cultural significance.

The Centre for Astronomy in NUI Galway helped to identify stars related to the dates to make up the 'Light Years from Here' star charts whilst The Galway Astronomy Club hosted the Light Years from Here stargazing event.

With thanks for star contributions to: Albaset Dhanoon, Susana Campos, Philippa Maguire, Abhay Pandit, Matt Redman, Malcolm O' Beirn, Roser Barceló Torta, Ludmila Snigireva, Elizabeth Power and Margaret O' Riada, Galway Traveller Movement



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1510
500 yrs

The Republic of Chile is a South American country occupying a long, narrow strip of land between the Andes to the East and the Pacific Ocean to the West. It borders Peru to the North, Bolivia to the Northeast, Argentina to the East, and the Drake Passage in the far South.

Chile became a Nation free and independent on September 18th of 1810. It was a Spanish colony since 1510 when was 'discovered' by the Spaniards. The Chilean indigenous people, Mapuches were strong in the fight for their freedom.

1510 Spanish Colonisation of Chile
Star: **Mirzam**
Distance: 506 light years (within the uncertain distance of 490 +/- 20 light years)
Constellation: Canis Major
Coordinates: 06:22:42, -17:57:21.3
Apparent magnitude: 2.0
Type of star: B1 II-III giant
Luminosity compared to the sun: 26,000
Temperature: 23,150K
Approximate colour: Blue-white
Mass (compared to the sun=1): 13.5
Radius (compared to sun=1): 9.7
Number of known planets: 0
Other points of interest: Easy star to see with unaided eye

1510 Colonisation of Chile', Susana Campos

1578
400 yrs

My date is 1578 this was the year when Grainne Ní Mhaile (Gráinne O'Malley) was imprisoned in the horrible dungeons of Dublin Castle. She was described by "Sydney", the Lord Deputy who met her in Galway in 1576, describes her, when she must have been about middle age, as "famous for her stoutness of courage, and person, and for sundry exploits done by her by sea." Like most Irish women she had been written out of history but not forgotten by legend and song. There have been many poems and songs about her but the one I am sending is one by Pádraig Pearse.

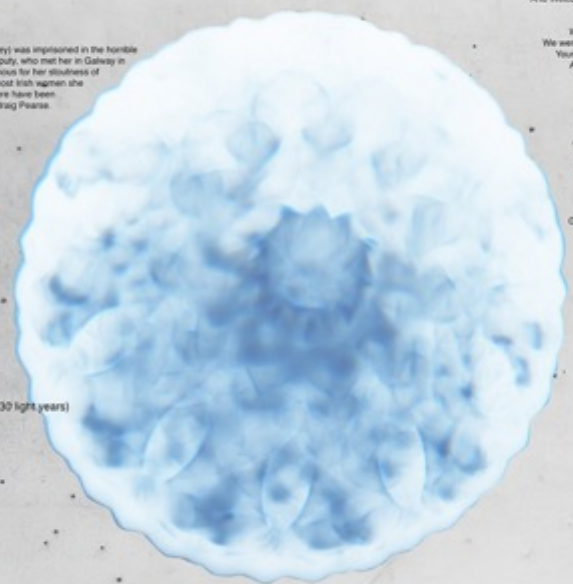

Ois, Sé do bheatha 'hale Ois Pádraig Mac Phiarraí

Sé do bheatha a tháinig be teanníocht
Sé do gaoch le bheith ingléiseán,
Do dhúiche bhí na lúcháirí
Sé do dhá leas na Galíoch
Choroi
Ois! Sé do bheatha 'hale!
Ois! Sé do bheatha 'hale!
Ois! Sé do bheatha 'hale!
Anois ar bheith an tSámaidh.
ii
Tá Gráinne Mhaol ag teacht thar síle,
Óglaigh anna le mar ghile,
Gael ad féin 's ní Gaill ná Spainigh
Sé do dhá leas na Galíoch
iii
A bhuil le fé na bhfear go bhfeiceann,
Muna mbeann beo 'na dháidh ach seachtain,
Gráinne Mhaol agus míse gearróidh
Ag fíorú san ar Ghlaithin.

Gráinne Ní Mhaile imprisoned in Dublin Castle dungeons
Star: **Adhara**
Distance: 438 light years (within uncertain distance of 430 +/- 30 light years)
Constellation: Canis Major
Coordinates: 06:58:37.6, -26:58:19
Apparent magnitude: 1.5
Type of star: B2 II
Luminosity compared to the sun: 38,700
Temperature: 22,900 K
Approximate colour: Blue-white
Mass (compared to the sun=1): 12.6
Radius (compared to sun=1): 13.9
Number of known planets: 0
Other points of interest: 4.7 million years ago was the brightest star in the sky. Star appears on flag of Brazil.

And Welcome Home Pádraig Pearse (translated)

Welcome, O woman who was sorrowful
We were desolate while you were imprisoned
Your lovely country in the hands of vandals
And you yourself — sold to the English.
Chorus
Ois — and welcome home,
Ois — and welcome home,
Ois — and welcome home,
Would that the Summer is here.
ii
Gráinne Mhaol is coming over the sea,
With a guard of young soldiers,
They are Irish, not English or Spanish
And they will rout the English.
iii
Thanks be to God that I'm seeing
(Even if I only live for a week again)
Gráinne Mhaol and a thousand others
Announcing ruin on the English.

1578 Grainne Ní Mhaile: Philippa Maguire



1778 O Higgins: Susana Campos



1810 Chilean Independence: Susana Campos



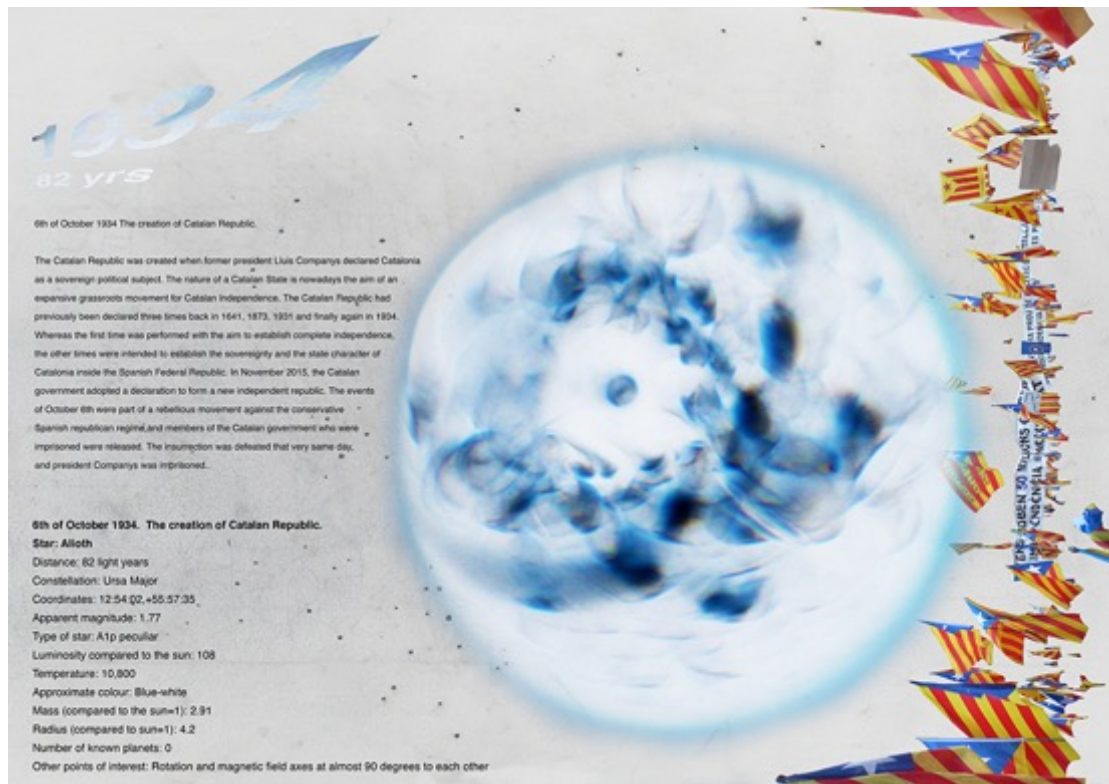
1829 Prohibition of 'Sati: Abhay Pandit



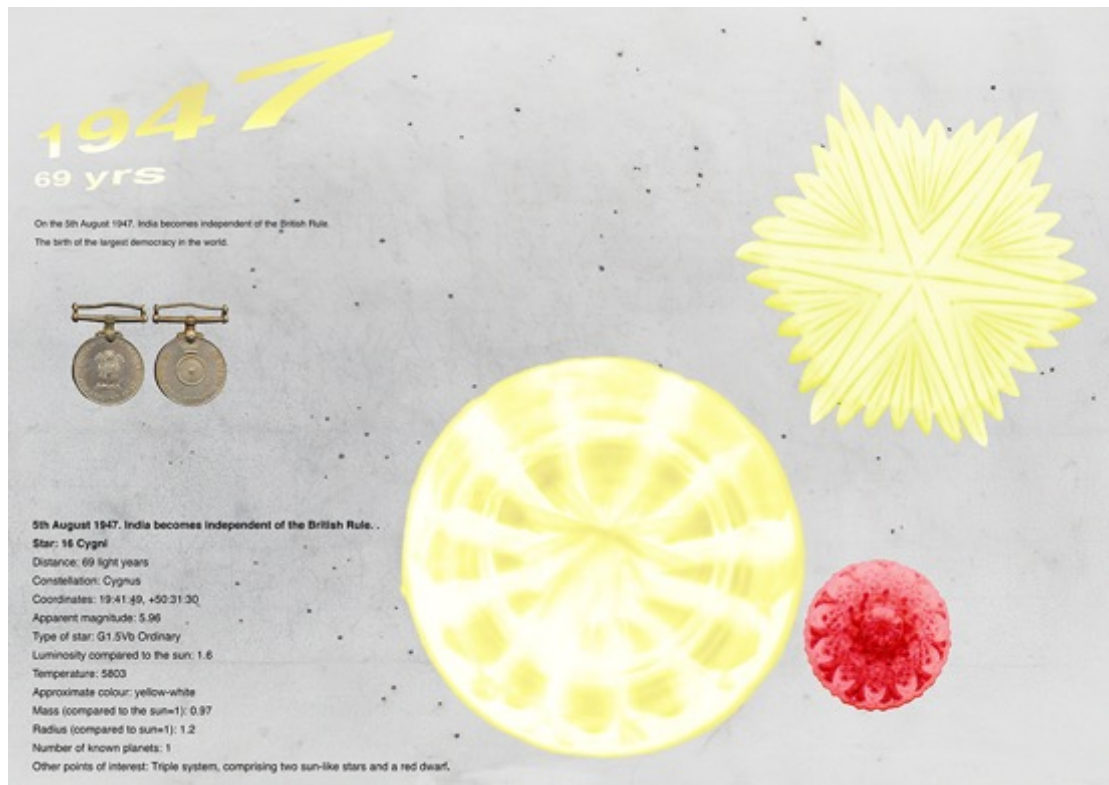
1849 Founding of NUIG: Matt Redman



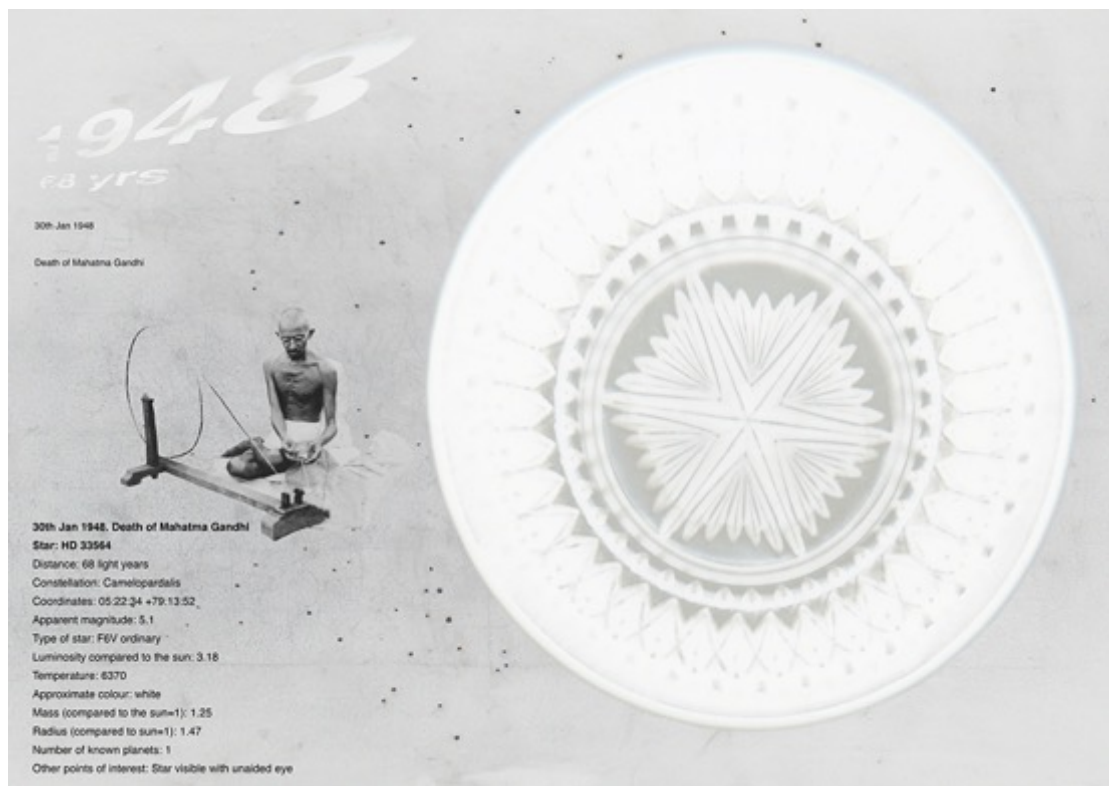
1858 Eiger Climb: Malcolm O' Beirn



1934 Catalonia: Roser Barceló Torta



1947 Indian Independence: Abhay Pandit



1948 Death of Gandhi Abhay Pandit



1957 Sputnik and Laika in Orbit: Ludmila Snigireva



1961 Yuri Gagarin: Ludmila Snigireva

1963

53 yrs

On June 16, 1963, aboard Vostok 6, Soviet Cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova becomes the first woman to travel into space. After 48 orbits and 71 hours, she returned to earth, having spent more time in space than all U.S. astronauts combined to that date. After Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space in 1961, Tereshkova volunteered for the Soviet space program. Although she did not have any experience as a pilot, she was accepted into the program because of her 126 parachute jumps.

1963, Valentina Tereshkova first woman to travel to space
 Star: HD 53705
 Distance: 53 light years
 Constellation: Puppis
 Coordinates: 07:03:57 -43:36:29
 Apparent magnitude: 5.7
 Type of star: G0V Ordinary
 Luminosity compared to the sun: 1.34
 Temperature: 5827K
 Approximate colour: Yellow-white
 Mass (compared to the sun=1): 0.98
 Radius (compared to sun=1): 1.14
 Number of known planets: 0
 Other points of interest: Sun-like star. Has a binary companion

1963 Valentina Tereshkova: Ludmila Snigireva

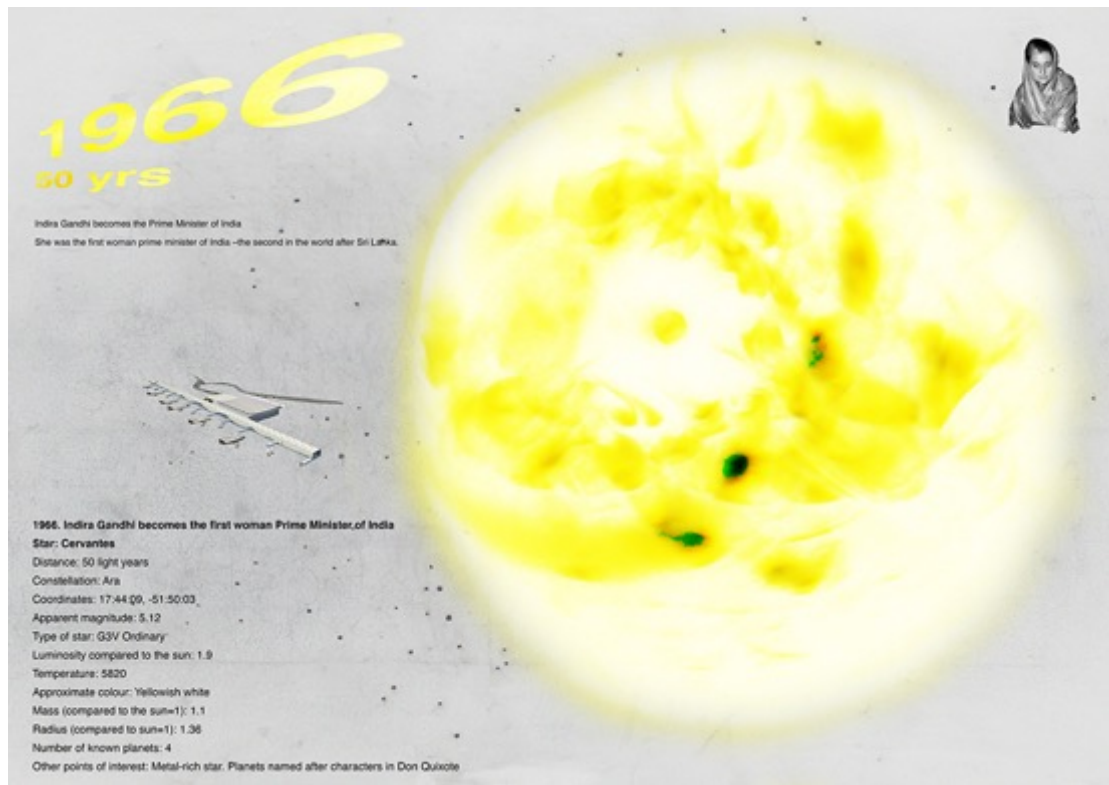
1965

51 yrs

In March 1965, the Soviet cosmonaut Alexei Leonov made the first spacewalk in history. Floating outside his tiny Vostok 2 capsule for 19 exhilarating minutes, Leonov felt, "he writes, "like a seagull with its wings outstretched, soaring high above the Earth." In keeping with the secrecy of the Soviet space program, few people—not even his family—knew about the spacewalk ahead of time. It was an event of extraordinary importance—for spacewalks have since become a mainstay of most major manned endeavours in Earth orbit. More than 200 astronauts—floating free in space on extra-vehicular activity, or EVAs—have since carried out tasks ranging from the repair of the Hubble space telescope to the construction of the international space station.

1965, Alexei Leonov first spacewalk.
 Star: HD 207129
 Distance: 51 light years
 Constellation: Crux
 Coordinates: 21:48:16 -47:18:13
 Apparent magnitude: 5.58
 Type of star: G2V Ordinary
 Luminosity compared to the sun: 1.2
 Temperature: 5900K
 Approximate colour: Yellow
 Mass (compared to the sun=1): 1.1
 Radius (compared to sun=1): 1.0
 Number of known planets: 0
 Other points of interest: Sun-like star. Debris ring orbiting distantly around the star

1965 Alexei Leonov: Ludmila Snigireva



1966, Indira Gandhi becomes the Prime Minister: Abhay Pandit



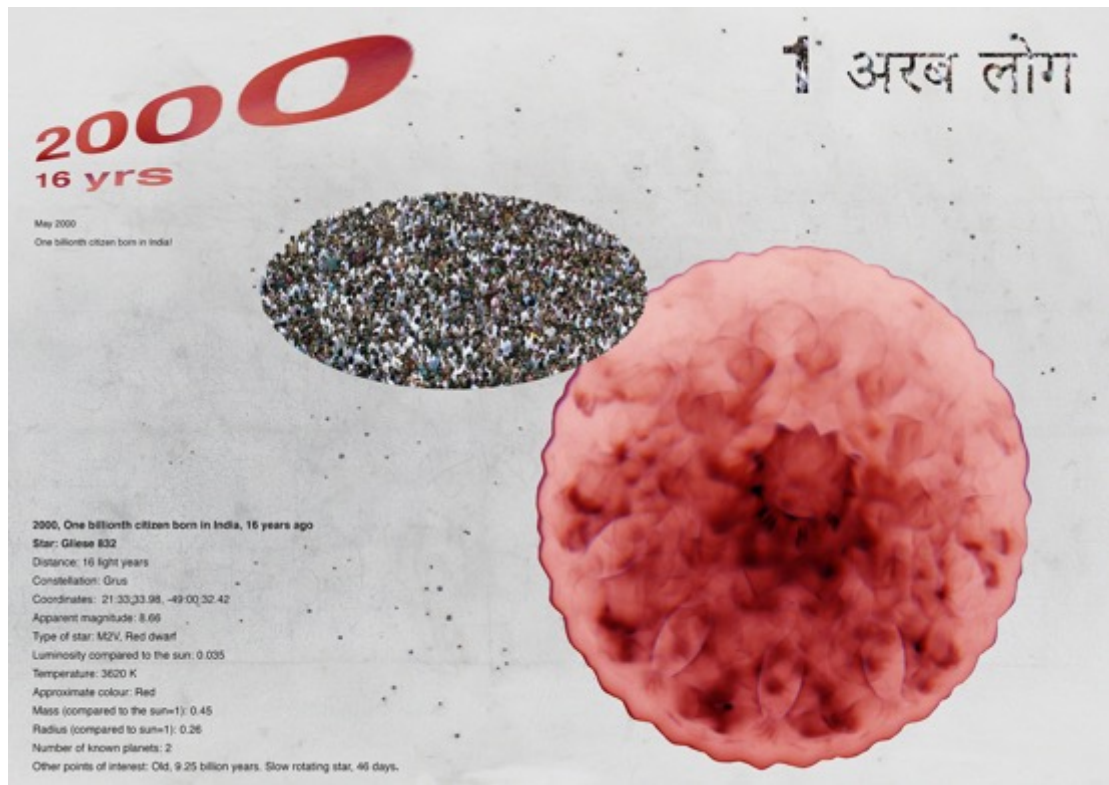
1984 Ann Lovett: Elizabeth Power



1995 Divorce: Elizabeth Power



1995 Traveler Task Force: Margaret O' Riada, Galway Traveler Movement



2000, 1 billionth citizen born in India: Abhay Pandit



Light Years from Here Installation shot, Galway Arts Centre, image courtesy of TULCA



Light Years from Here Stargazing Event, Brian MacGarbhann of Galway Astronomy Club speaking about the nature of light, image courtesy of TULCA